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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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ACTION

November 9, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM:

John Holdridge
Dick Kennedy
Hal Sonnenfeldt
Marshall Wright

SUBJECT:

Instructions to USUN on Chinese Participation
in the CCD

State has sent a cable for clearance (Tab A) providing instructions to USUN on the handling of Chinese participation in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva (CCD).

You should know that State's cable was personally edited and signed by Secretary Rogers, and that it was sent to us with his marginal notations. Both that fact and the circumstance that without an instruction of some sort our UN delegates are entirely on their own, make it impractical to simply withhold clearance until we have the NSC study you asked for this morning. The UN debate on disarmament will begin next week, after the Chinese delegation has arrived. The relevant committee includes all UN members, there is a possibility of a General Assembly resolution inviting the Chinese to join the CCD, and it is just not feasible for our delegation to be mute in the corridors or in plenary sessions.

However, all of us have serious problems with the proposed State cable. Basically, we think it goes too far, and would give us problems with the Russians, and possibly the Chinese as well. The Russians have privately indicated to us some flexibility in regard to the CCD, but have made it clear that they want "private talks" (assumedly with the Chinese and us) before agreeing to change CCD procedures to facilitate Chinese participation. As for the Chinese, it is a simple fact that they have not yet indicated their attitude toward participation in the CCD and it seems premature for us to demonstrate a willingness to change CCD procedures to please the Chinese

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J. Saunders, National Security Council

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until the Chinese, themselves, have spoken to the issue.

The four of us are agreed on an alternative (Tab B) to Secretary Roger's message. State is certain, however, to resist, perhaps bitterly, such substantial changes in a text approved by the Secretary.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you look at the Secretary's message (Tab A) and make the decision whether or to what extent you wish to go along with it or use the alternative language in Tab B.

Approve Tab B.

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I second the Board.

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